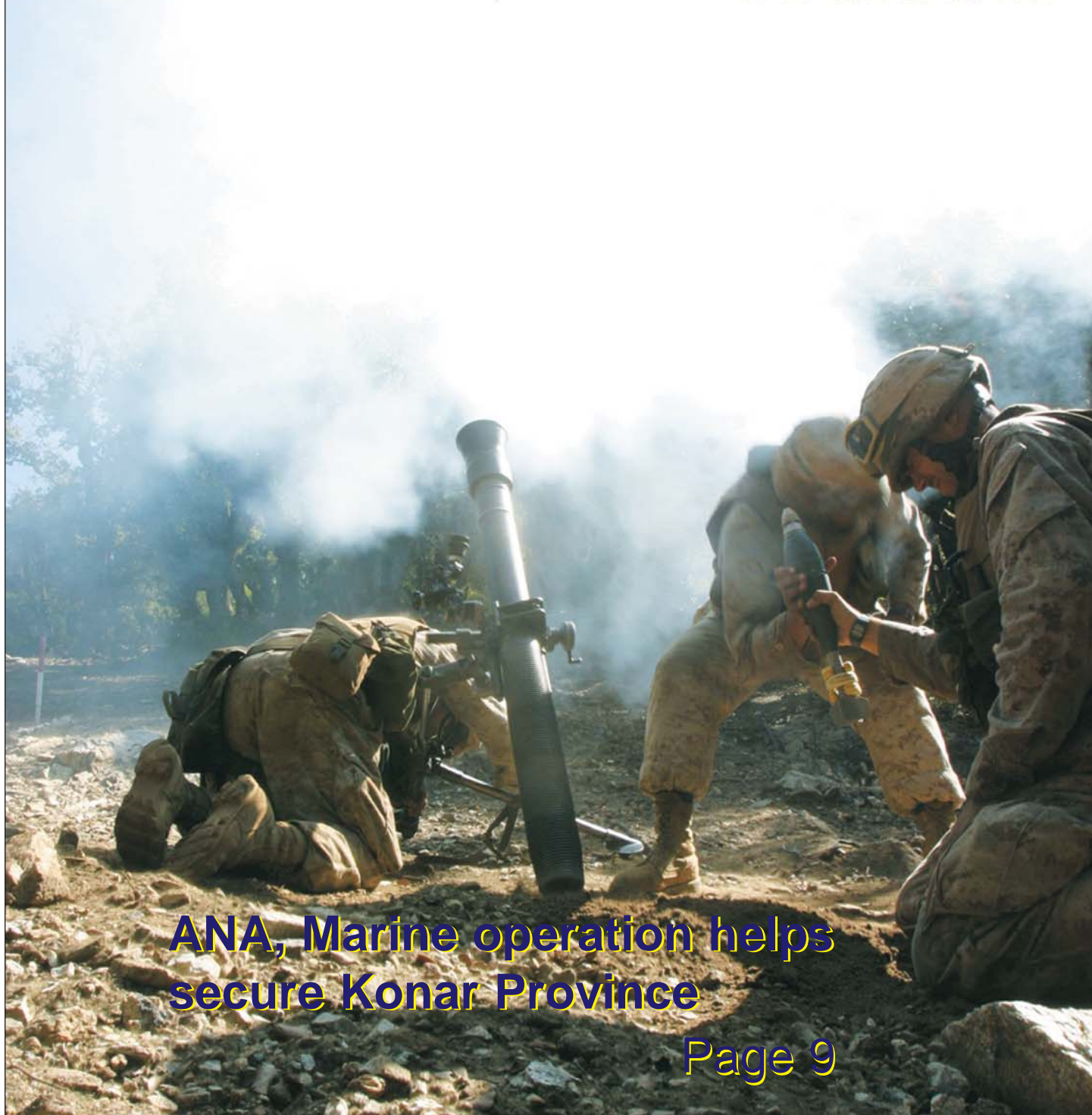


September 5, 2005

Afghanistan **Freedom** Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan **Watch**



**ANA, Marine operation helps
secure Konar Province**

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Photo by Air Force Capt. Mark Gibson



Air Force Airman 1st Class Randy Boyer (left) and Airman 1st Class Alisha Cox (right) 455th Air Expeditionary Wing deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., work on a right wing deceleron of a A-10 Thunderbolt II 'Warthog' at Bagram Airfield Aug. 18.

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Marine Lance Cpl. Cheng Lui, a radio operator with F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, returns fire after his convoy was attacked during Operation Whalers in the Chawkey Valley in the Konar Province Aug. 18.

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(Cover) Marines with First Platoon, F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment provide indirect fire with an 81mm mortar, after their sister platoon was attacked during Operation Whalers in the Chawkey Valley in Konar Province Aug. 13. (Photo by Marine Sgt. Cooper Evans)

Afghanistan Freedom Watch

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Kabul Police Academy graduates first officer class

By Air Force 1st Lt. Leslie Brown

Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Police grew in ranks and capability recently as the German-led Kabul Police Academy graduated the first class of police officers from its comprehensive three-year officer training course.

The 210 new officers celebrated during a morning ceremony that emphasized their hard work and accomplishments and highlighted their new responsibilities now that they are lieutenants, or sarans.

As cadets at the academy, they studied 23 subjects during more than 3,400 hours of classroom training. Topics ranged from criminal investigations and social sciences to police tactics and operations.

In addition to being extremely well trained in police operations, the new sarans are in top physical condition. Before and after their classes, they supplemented their physical fitness classes with sports and defensive training activities.

"Every morning and every evening, except for holidays, the cadets were doing some type of physical conditioning," said Afghan Col. Wasirshah, an assistant professor at the academy. "They would train in martial arts, boxing, football and basketball, as well as running and calisthenics."

Wasirshah, who like many Afghans uses only one name, knows from experience what the new sarans will encounter during their careers with the ANP.

"I have been in the service for more than 35 years-10 in the army and 25 in the police," he said as he spoke with the graduates prior to the ceremony.

Newly commissioned Afghan 2nd Lt. Amin Ullah, one of the top graduates of the class, spoke highly of his training.

"I enjoyed my time here. I found all subjects interesting, especially criminal techniques and police tactics," said Ullah.

"We graduated 210 sarans. Beginning with them, every year we'll graduate 400 to 500 new sarans," said Afghan Jurgen Graf, a police advisor with the German Police Project Office.

According to the Bonn II Agreement of 2002, Germany has lead responsibility for the reform of the Afghan National Police and the three-year Kabul Police Academy training program.

The new officers will be assigned to the different police divisions within the ANP. In the next few weeks, they will head to their new assignments as border police, traffic police, uniform police, highway police or the standby force, Graf said.

Ullah can't wait to get started in his new career as a police officer, something he has always aspired to.

"Since I was a small child I've wanted to be a police or military officer," he said.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

Members of the Kabul Police Academy cadet honor guard lead the pass and review during the recent Afghan National Police officers' graduation ceremony. The cadets are students at the German-led three-year officers' course.

After he gains experience on the force, he hopes to return to Kabul to become an academy professor.

"I hope to come back to the academy and instruct so I can share my knowledge with other new police officers," said Ullah.

At the ceremony first deputy vice president of Afghanistan, Ahmad Zia Massoud, stressed the importance of the graduates' future duties.

"The police uniform is a symbol of service for the people, security and stability of Afghanistan," Massoud said. "You are aware of your responsibility to your people and to your country."

The Afghan deputy minister of the Interior Ministry, Zabar Ahmad Moqbel, also spoke to the new officers about their future service to their country and its citizens.

"We are faced with challenges from those who wish to destroy our country and our security. This is the first graduation of police from the academy since the collapse of Taliban," said Maqbel. "National sovereignty will only be achieved if we have a strong police force."

The commanding general of the Afghan police academy, Maj. Gen. Shair Aqa Rohani, told the new officers how they are members of a truly national police force. "We are ready for you to serve in every part of Afghanistan."

"Your graduation today helps Afghanistan secure the long struggle against crime," Rohani said. "You will continue your duties according to the police oath and will defend independence, freedom, security and stability for Afghanistan."



Karishma and her father, Abdula, spend time together before the heart surgery at Bagram Airfield. The little girl suffered from patent ductus arteriosus, a hole in her heart present from birth, which was repaired by Army doctors Aug. 14.

Military doctor patches up 8-year-old Afghan girl's heart

By Army Sgt. Tara Teel
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Karishma tried to be like any other eight year old, running and playing with boundless energy, but for her, there was an end to the energy.

She could never have had a normal, long life because of heart problems – until a year ago.

Two U.S. Special Forces medical personnel, a medical sergeant and doctor, crossed paths with Karishma in September 2004 ultimately leading up to a successful lifesaving closed-heart surgery performed Aug. 14 by Army Dr. (Maj.) Michael Myers, a cardiothoracic surgeon stationed at the Bagram Airfield hospital.

"The surgery went extremely well," the surgeon said. "She is a strong little girl. She will live a long, happy, healthy life."

Karishma was three months old when her family found out she had heart problems from a doctor in Peshawar, Pakistan. They diagnosed her with Ventricular Septal Defect -- a hole in the heart's wall -- a type of heart malfunction present at birth.

Seven years later, village elders introduced her father, Abdula, to the Special Operations Forces medical sergeant and doctor. They had been conducting

sick-call near Jalalabad in September 2004.

"I told Abdula that I could not treat Karishma, but I would do some research on the Internet about the problem and asked him to return a few days later," said the SOF medical sergeant. "I researched the condition and found three non-profit organizations that could help. The same day I received a response from the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J., offering to perform the surgery free for the family through a program called 'Children of the World Program.'"

The Deborah Heart and Lung Center reviewed Karishma's charts and made a final diagnosis that she had Patent Ductus Arteriosus, where a part of her aorta did not close and develop after birth.

Everything was set for Karishma and her mother to travel to New Jersey for the operation. The entire trip and operation would be free of charge for the family. But, things took another turn.

Almost a year after initially seeing Karishma in Jalalabad, the SOF doctor overheard Dr. Myers saying he had done a similar surgery. He asked Dr. Myers if he would like to do another. The SOF doctor relayed this information to his medical sergeant. The sergeant later learned that Myers had actu-

ally performed the same surgery on another patient about a week earlier.

"I told Dr. Myers about Karishma and asked him if he was interested in doing another one, and he said, 'Sure, why not,'" the SOF doctor said. The family learned of Myers' ability and willingness to perform the surgery at Bagram. They joyfully accepted the offer.

Abdula, who is a tailor with five sons and five daughters, could have never afforded the operation.

"I am very happy and very thankful to the Americans for helping Karishma," Abdula said.

"She is very playful and energetic, she just gets tired real easy," said the SOF doctor.

Karishma is currently in recovery at Bagram and expected to return home soon.



Eight-year-old Karishma rests after her heart surgery by military doctors at Bagram Airfield Aug. 14.

'Sharks' help local villagers

By Army Sgt. James-Denton Wylie
20th Public Affairs Detachment

TOMANY, Afghanistan – U.S. paratroopers scored another victory in the battle for the hearts and minds of the people of Afghanistan when they held a medical civil affairs project here Aug. 15.

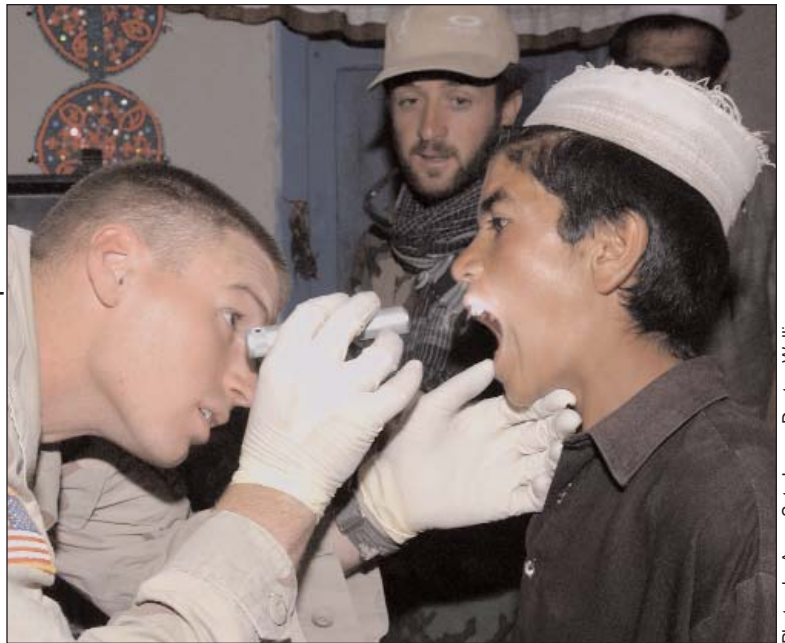
The MEDCAP was one of several the "Sharks" of A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment have held since their arrival to Afghanistan from their home station of Vicenza, Italy.

At Tomany, the Soldiers set up shop in the one-room home of the village

elder. Twenty-four villagers were in the makeshift waiting and treatment room during the course of the visit. Many of the patients complained of stomach pains and other gastrointestinal problems.

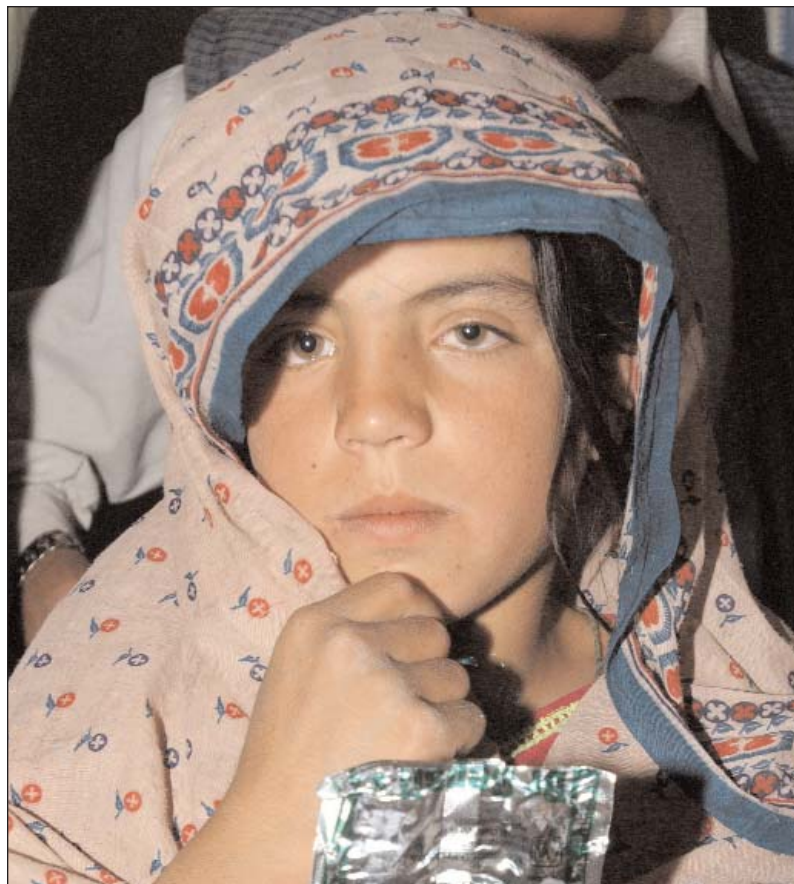
"The most common thing that we've seen is stomach ulcers, stomach cramps and digestion problems," said Army Spc. David Lambie, a medic with the Sharks.

"It's mostly because of their diet and the amount of salt they consume."



Photos by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wylie

Army medic Spc. David Lambie checks an Afghan boy for strep throat. Lambie and other paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment visited the village of Tomany on Aug. 15 as part of a medical civil affairs project.



An Afghan girl holds the medicine she received from paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment during a MEDCAP Aug. 15.

To combat the effects of their eating habits, the paratroopers gave villagers a variety of medications and counseled them on proper dosages through an interpreter. Although the Soldiers brought a variety of supplies with them, they were unable to solve all of the medical problems of the villagers.

In one case, the paratroopers were asked to heal a girl whose toes had fused together after being burned.

The Soldiers gave the villagers detailed instructions on how to obtain care from Coalition and other advanced care facilities.

"Sometimes there's nothing we can do from right here on the spot," said Lambie. "We let them know that they have to get a recommendation from a local doctor to seek higher care, and then bring that slip back to

us so we can get them to Bagram."

Although women are usually absent during the Shark's MEDCAPs, on this visit, the Soldiers were asked to help two women of the village. Under the supervision of their male relative, the medics treated a woman with chest pains and a little girl with a club foot.

"Today was rare because we actually got to treat some of the women face-to-face," said Army Spc. Seth Armstrong, an infantryman. "Mostly, we see little boys or adult men who speak for their whole families. It must have been a long time since the people here have had any sort of professional care."

After an hour, the paratroopers packed up their supplies and prepared to head out to the next village on their list. However, their hour of help left behind immeasurable feelings of goodwill and thanks with the villagers.

"I'm happy that they came to help us and our families," said village elder Mabikhan. "We needed the help."



Photo by Army Pfc. Jon Arguello

Village elders gather at the Arghandab shura to discuss issues including opium, illicit drug crops, and security for National Assembly elections Sept. 18.

Gun Devils hold shuras to ease voting security concerns

By Army Pfc. Jon Arguello
Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Nearly 400 Afghans participated in the first Afghan-led shura, or village meeting, focused on the upcoming elections in Maywand in the western part of Kandahar Province. Task Force Gun Devil organized a series the meetings to bolster election participation, resolved concerns about participation and reassure the population on polling place security.

Meinsef, a Kandahar election official, was a key speaker. He explained the voting that yellow ballots were for district elections while blue were for Parliamentary elections. He also explained that Kuchis, or nomadic tribes, may participate in parliamentary elections but not district elections.

Habibualla, the voting district leader Habibualla who is also a district education leader from the Norzai tribe, spoke on the importance of security. He said only security would increase the return and involvement of non-governmental agencies. He also said corruption must end and the government is working hard to solve this problem.

"The men here are true leaders because they never left, they stayed and did what was right for Afghanistan while the Taliban leaders hide in Pakistan and go dancing in clubs as their militants die fighting against Afghan soldiers," Habibualla said.

The next day another shura was held featuring the Arghandab district elders on the far side of Kandahar. The focus there was on opium, illicit drug crops and security.

"Opium and other drug crops need to stop," said a vil-

lage elder. "The world is helping us and we need to take this opportunity to end the problem or the world will turn against us."

Governor Assadullah, who attended both shuras, expressed how proud he was of the people of Arghandab saying they have a distinguished history as defenders of Afghanistan.

"The people of Arghandab were the first to fight against the Soviets, and it was all of the people of Arghandab," said Assadullah. "Now we have good people and a good government. We have to get together and defend it as well."

Assadullah said Afghanistan did not have the power to make necessary progress over the last 25 years because of war, but now they are receiving help from the Coalition.

"They have already helped us, and are continuing to help us," Assadullah said. "Now it is our turn to help them."

Army Lt. Col. Bertrand Ges, commander of TF Gun Devil, said the Coalition is at a critical juncture and that all progress made against the Taliban will be made through cooperation. He asked the Afghan people to help by not providing Taliban support and to let Coalition forces know when the enemy fighters come into their area.

Education and electricity were other important topics discussed at the shuras. One of the Arghandab representatives said there are 3,500 students in the district and they were trying to increase that number and the district's school capacity. They also requested a girl's school.

The governor said electricity projects would increase in proportion with the security in the areas where the electricity was needed.



Photo by Army Sgt. Chuck Meseke

Army Spc. Daniel MacAlister, an explosive ordnance disposal specialist with the 749th Ordnance Company, re-enlists against a wall of flames Aug. 16.

Re-enlisting is a blast for one Soldier

By Army Sgt. Chuck Meseke
Combined Task Force Devil Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan – Re-enlisting in Afghanistan can be a blast if you are an explosive ordnance disposal specialist with the 749th Ordnance Company.

An explosion of flames at Forward Operating Base Salerno's demolitions range punctuated Army Spc. Daniel MacAlister's recital of the Oath of Enlistment.

Once his recommitment to the Army was complete, a boom rocked the silent Afghan mountainsides and a wall of flame, similar to what can be seen in an action movie, rose to the sky.

"This is kind of our thing," the Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, native said describing the tradition of EOD Soldiers marking the occasion with explosives.

Fellow EOD specialists from the 749th dug holes approximately every 10 feet in a line at the demolitions range. Detonation chord was stretched the length of the

holes with a few extra feet of the explosive cable in each hole. Next the Soldiers placed fuel filled plastic trash bags into the holes. The detonation chord sent the fuel upward as it burned.

"I've seen re-enlistments up on 'radar hill', on Blackhawks (helicopters), even some before jumps," said Army Staff Sgt. Eric Kaplan, the career counselor with Task Force Devil who is from Paso Robles, Calif. "But, this is the most elaborate I have seen."

MacAlister, who has served two years active duty as an Army EOD specialist, re-enlisted for six years. He netted a \$25,000 tax free bonus in the process.

Twenty-five thousand dollars is larger than the average re-enlistment bonus, Kaplan said.

Most soldiers receive about \$15,000 for re-enlistments depending on the contract, a Soldier's job, and rank, said Kaplan.

However, many factors determine a bonus. All Soldiers are encouraged to visit their retention office for details, said Kaplan.

Airborne Army medic thrives under pressure

By Army Pfc. Mike Pryor
Task Force Red Falcon Public Affairs

NAWA, Afghanistan – It wasn't even noon yet and already Army Sgt. Christopher Turner had been hit in the face by concrete fragments; forced to deputize a chaplain to man his under-strength aid station; and had given cardiopulmonary resuscitation to an officer.

It was the kind of situation where Turner is at his best.

"I'm just managing the chaos," he said as he prepped another intravenous bag for use.

Turner, 29, originally from Glenrothes, Scotland, is a medic attached to the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment. His leaders say he has been a pillar of dependability for the battalion since it began combat operations in eastern Afghanistan in mid-July.

"He's been a great asset to the team," said Army 1st Lt. Dan Coulter, the battalion's medical officer. "He brings a wealth of knowledge from previous deployments to help teach and mentor the younger medics in the battalion. He has a strong work ethic, second to none, and he's always willing to lend a hand. The Red Falcon medics are proud to have him as an addition to the team."

Turner's abilities were put to good use during Operation Neptune, a massive cordon-and-search operation in eastern Afghanistan Aug. 8 through 12.

The first patient Turner had to treat during the operation was himself, after an accidental weapon discharge hit a wall nearby and sprayed chips of concrete in his face.

"I got peppered a bit," he said casually.

As the mission continued, the heat, unsanitary conditions, and unrelenting tempo of operations caused heat casualties to start piling up. Some cases required nothing more than an IV. Others were more serious.

Turner was nearby when an officer, who had been receiving fluids, went into a seizure Aug. 9. Turner leaped into action.

"His eyes rolled back in his head and his whole body went rigid," Turner said.

The officer had stopped breathing.

His brain was no longer receiving oxygen. The situation was critical, so Turner knelt down and began administering CPR.

"I gave two rescue breaths and he shot up and said 'I'm good! I'm good!'" Turner said.

The officer was evacuated later and was expected to make a full recovery. Turner, typically, downplays the incident.

"Yeah, the last person I made out with was a male lieutenant," he said.

After continuing to provide medical care throughout the rest of the operation, Turner was riding back to his FOB in a convoy when it was ambushed

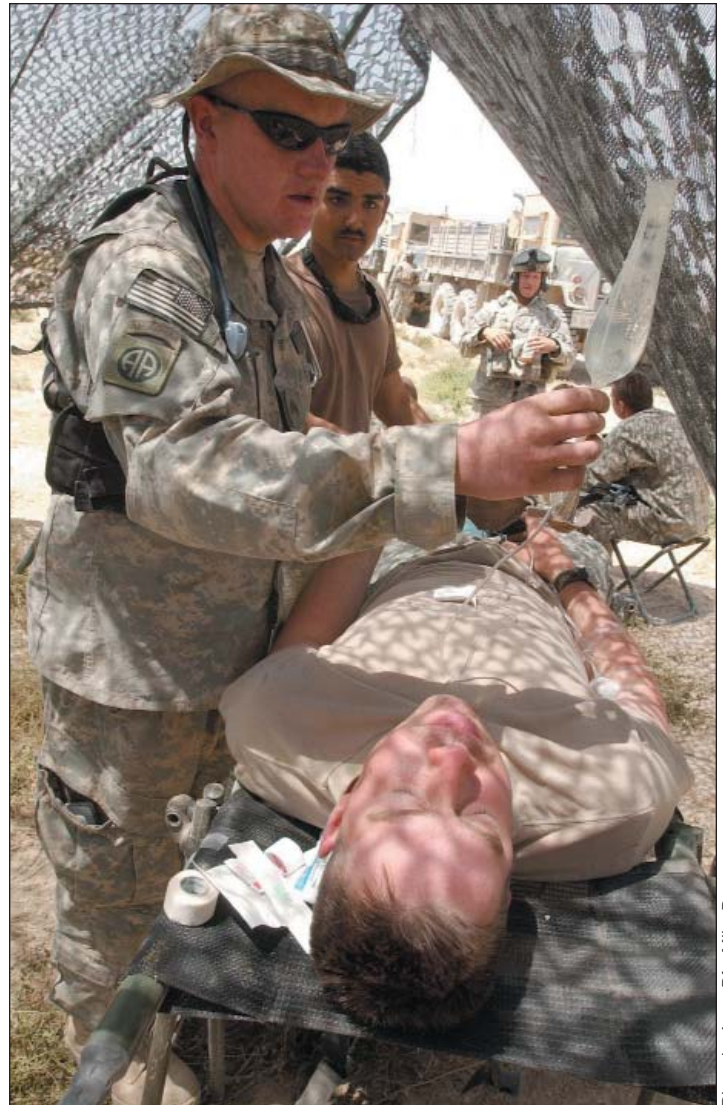


Photo by Army Pfc. Mike Pryor

Army Sgt. Christopher Turner of Glenrothes, Scotland, a medic with the 82nd Airborne Division's 307th Engineer Battalion currently attached to Task Force Red Falcon in eastern Afghanistan, checks a patient's intravenous bag while overseeing the battalion aid station during Operation Neptune Aug. 10.

by a group of terrorists. The attackers hit the convoy with improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades, and small-arms fire, but miraculously no one was hurt. Then, not so miraculously, the truck Turner was in rolled in to a ditch.

Despite seeming to bounce from one catastrophe to another, Turner remains upbeat. By his own personal yardstick, he said, this deployment has been an unqualified success.

"I've yet to lose a Soldier in my care, and that's the way I like it," he said.

ANA, Marine operation helps secure Konar Province

By Marine 1st Lt. Anthony Del Signore

Task Force Devil Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Afghanistan National Army forces and U.S. Marines killed more than 40 enemy combatants during an offensive operation over the last few weeks in the districts of Chawkay, Asadabad, Pech and Narang in the Konar Province.

The ANA and Marines fought side by side in 29 separate engagements against the enemy, disrupting hostile activity during Operation Whalers. The operation's purpose was to disrupt enemy forces in the area and to clear the way for successful elections.

"The ANA have demonstrated their abilities with great success," said U.S. Marine Lt. Col. James E. Donnellan, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment. "The willingness and professionalism of the ANA to



Photos by Marine Sgt. Cooper Evans

Marine Lance Cpl. Cheng Lui, a radio operator with F Company, 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, returns fire after his convoy was attacked during Operation Whalers in the Chawkay Valley in the Konar Province Aug. 18.

engage the enemy will ensure success for the security of Afghanistan."

Afghan Lt. Col. Nasir, commanding officer of the ANA battalion, also said he was proud of the courage shown by his Afghan soldiers.

Afghan soldiers have made many sacrifices to fight for a democratic and free Afghanistan and, with the help of Coalition forces, they will win the war on terrorism and defeat the enemies of Afghanistan, according to Nasir.

Afghan and U.S. forces worked in close coordination with local leaders regarding the mission meeting several times with Provincial Governor Wafa during the operation. Governor Wafa also broadcasted several messages on local radio stations explaining the purpose of Operation Whalers.

Civil affairs and medical personnel also ensured Afghan citizens in the area received medical treatment and an opportunity to prosper and improve their lifestyle.

U.S. forces brought much-needed supplies, humanitarian and civil assistance including medical to some of the local residents.

Governor Wafa expects this operation to encourage those former enemies of Afghanistan to reconcile and join the Tahkim-e-Solh, the government of Afghanistan's reconciliation program, so they can participate in the democratic process of rebuilding this country.

"The enemy continues to learn the hard way that U.S., Coalition and Afghan National Security Forces will continue to be relentless in their search for, and destruction of the enemy," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, Combined Joint Task Force-76 commanding general. "In a few weeks, the people of Afghanistan will elect a National Assembly which will constitute a vote against continued violence and suffering and a vote for a free and prosperous future. The enemy, too, has choices to make: to peacefully and honorably reconcile with Afghanistan's national government and become part of Afghanistan's brighter future; or to continue to live in the shadow of continued military confrontation, violence, death and defeat."



Marines with 1st Platoon, F Company, 2nd Battalion Third Marine Regiment provide indirect fire with an 81mm mortar, after their sister platoon was attacked during Operation Whalers in the Chawkay Valley in the Konar Province Aug. 13.

The hunt for Sherbaz

Coalition, Afghan forces raid compound

By Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie
20th Public Affairs Detachment

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Kill or capture suspected terrorist Sherbaz.

That was the mission for 31 U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment and 32 Afghan National Army and Police members on the morning of Aug. 19.

Intelligence had identified Sherbaz as a possible member of a cell specializing in setting up improvised explosive devices in Paktika Province.

Before the mission, ANA soldier Katibullah said, "If he's hurting my people, he is dangerous and must be arrested. It will be done."

Just before dawn, the group of Soldiers and policemen drove up a shallow river bed in their Humvees and trucks and surrounded the base of the hill Sherbaz's compound. Then they hiked around and up the back side of the hill to avoid detection.

They wanted to hit Sherbaz's compound early so they could catch them off guard and still sleeping, said Army Sgt. Shane Wilson.

After reaching the first collection of houses, the group split into three teams. Team One headed north, Team Two went south, and Team Three searched from west to east. Team One saw activity first. They reported two males had fled and were headed in Team Two's direction.

Teams Two and Three moved to intercept the males.

They chased the suspects through two crop fields to a

dry river bed east of the compound.

"They were walking when we reached the river bed at the bottom of the hill, but then they started to run when they saw us," said Pfc. Santiago Carbonell, an Army infantryman. "We took off and chased them down about 300 meters and back up the hill."

During the pursuit, Team One reported they had captured Sherbaz's brother. He was willing to lead them to Sherbaz. After regrouping and securing the river bed, Teams Two and Three linked up with Team One in the northeast corner of the compound.

"His brother gave him up," said Army Staff Sgt. Rick Reibsome, platoon sergeant for the 3rd platoon "Combat Wombats."

Sherbaz's time was up, he said.

When Team One found the suspected terrorist in his personal residence, he surrendered without resistance. An initial search of Sherbaz and his brother's homes yielded ammunition, bayonets, and magazines. Further searching revealed a shotgun hidden in a pile of hay, rifles hidden under clothing in a closet and bandoliers hidden in locked chests throughout the two homes.

After questioning, Sherbaz and his brother were handed over to ANP custody at the Orgun-E jail for further processing. The ANA collected illegal items seized during the raid to be destroyed or stored.

The level of teamwork displayed during this suc-



Photos by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie

Army infantryman Spc. Jason Alipio breaks the lock on a chest during a kill or capture mission for terror suspect Sherbaz in Paktika Province Aug. 19. Alipio and other Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment joined with Afghan forces for the mission.

cessful mission is vital to the growth of Afghanistan as a nation, said ANP policeman Azam Khan.

He also said the mission shows how Coalition and Afghan forces are striving

for the same goal.

"We do this together, because we all want to build up Afghanistan," said Khan. "We want to bring freedom, safety and peace to our country."



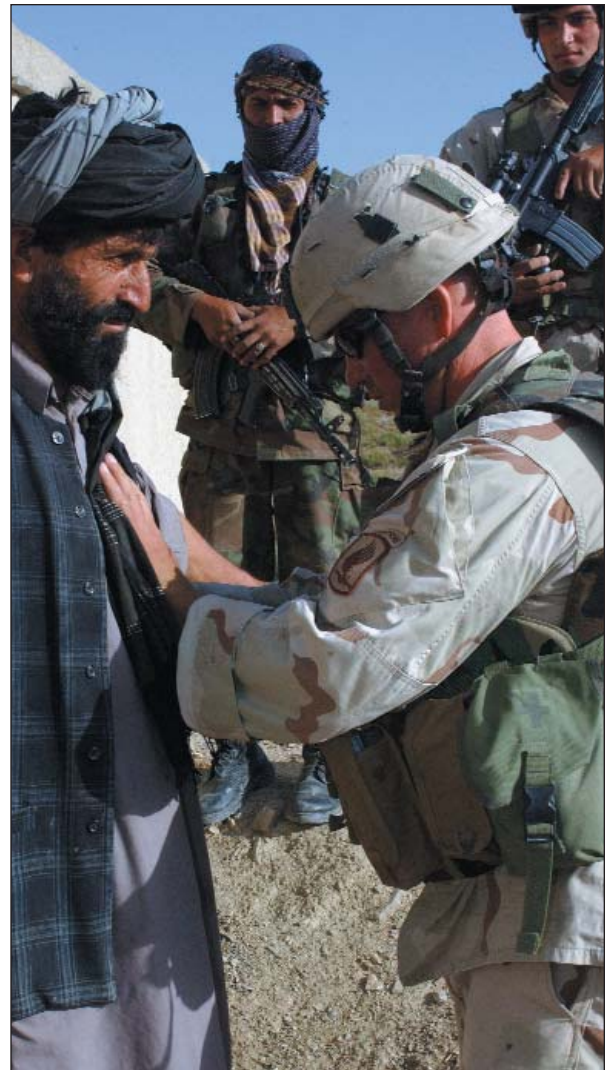
Army infantryman Sgt. William Underhill climbs out of a bolt hole during a kill or capture mission in Paktika Province Aug. 19. Underhill and other Soldiers with the "Combat Wombats" platoon of the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment's Alpha Company joined with Afghan forces in the mission.



Ammunition, bayonets, rifles and magazines are among the items seized by Coalition and Afghan forces during a raid on a compound in Paktika Province Aug. 19.



(Above left) Afghan National Policeman Abdul Salan takes his position at the top of hill during a kill or capture raid for terror suspect Sherbaz in Paktika Province Aug. 19.



(Above right) Army infantryman Staff Sgt. Ricky Reibsome searches suspect Sherbaz during a kill or capture mission on his compound Aug. 19. Sherbaz is suspected of being a member of an improvised explosive device cell.

Military police help community

By Army Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts
20th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers from U.S. military police units here joined Afghan National Police to give medical care and gifts to a village just outside the base Aug. 22.

Besides building a stronger friendship with the residents of Sabikehl village, the mission's focus was to show the residents how the U.S. forces and ANP work together.

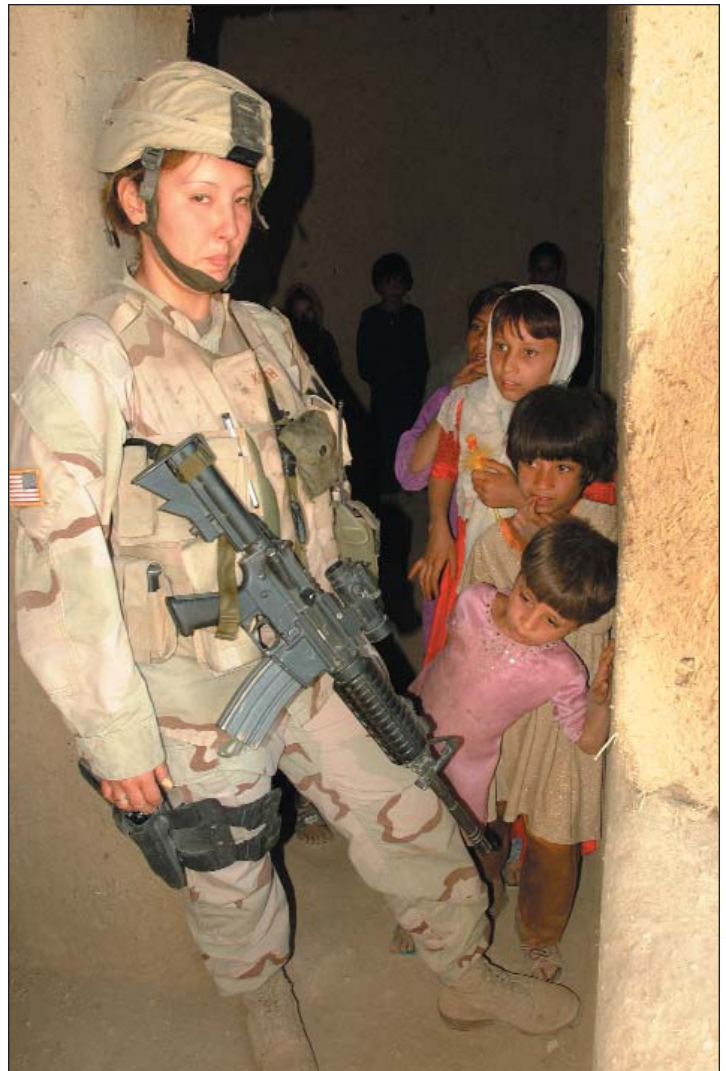
"(Working with the ANP) is very important because our aim as a whole is to get the Afghan government on its feet," said Army 1st Lt. Andrew Stipp, 13th Military Police Company's commander. "It's important for the citizens to see the ANP as being tactically and technically proficient."

Anytime the military police have patrols or missions around Bagram they have members from the ANP with them. "They are a great source of information and a good resource to have with you," said Stipp.

Stipp also said recently the residents around Bagram Airfield have had a change of perception of the ANP. They have grown to respect the police and started to work with them more. He also said that he has seen a change in the work ethic of the ANP as they work more closely with the MPs.

"They take pride in their jobs," said Stipp. "Each and every time we have a joint mission it is another notch in their belt. Their confidence and competence becomes that much more solid."

"There are some challenges working with the ANP," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Morris from Task Force



Photos by Army Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts

Army Sgt. Karen Kofroth of the 13th Military Police Company stands with children of Sabikehl Village as they wait their turn for examination by the medics.

See MP next page



Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:

What time is it?

Dari

Sa-at chand ast?
(Sah-aht chand ahst)

Pashtu

So bajay da
(So bah-jay-dah)

Afghan cultural tidbit

*A favorite sport in northern Afghanistan is a game called **buzkashi**, in which teams of horsemen compete to deposit the carcass of a large headless calf in a goal circle. Afghans also play polo and **ghosai**, a team sport similar to wrestling. The most important holiday in Afghanistan is Eid and Nowruz, or New Year's Day, which is celebrated on the first day of spring.*

(<http://www.afghan-network.net/Culture/attractions.html>)

From previous page MP

Peacekeeper and 716th MP Battalion. "But, we work through it. Today (the medical mission in Sabikehl) was a success because you had a lot of partnerships working towards a common cause." The ANP provided crowd control and searched Afghan males seeking medical treatment.

"They always seem to be doing their jobs," said Army Pfc. Eric Holman, a medic with the 13th MP Co. "They put themselves first, making sure we are taken care of."

"The ANP faces challenges such as age differences, little pay and other cultural difficulties," said Stipp. "Their dedication to being there and doing their job is outstanding. On many levels, in many countries, you would not see this."

The ANP's involvement in the medical mission at Sabikehl allowed medical personnel to treat 325 patients, including 61 women, for ailments such as headaches, burns and skin disorders. After the medical treatments were finished the Soldiers and ANP handed out backpacks, water bottles, radios and soccer balls.



(Above) Wali Mohammad (left) describes his ailment to Sohrah, an interpreter for the military police, while Sgt. Jeffrey Anderson, a medic assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion listens.

(Right) Fawadla, an officer in Afghan National Police, searches villagers before they are allowed to see the U.S. medics. In a show of cooperation, the ANP conducted all the searches of male patients and assisted in crowd control during the civic assistance mission.



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Army Dr. (Capt.) Kristopher Wallman, from Task Force Eagle, examines Burhanddin's ears for irregularities. Burhanddin, a resident of Qari Zianlulbodain, complained of dizziness and Wallman ruled out inner ear trouble. The task force was visiting the village and providing medical care for the residents.

*Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts
20th Public Affairs Detachment*

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

News around Afghanistan

Bridge provides important link to Kandahar, future

By Army Pfc. Jon Arguello
Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – After more than a year of hard work, a bridge project in southern Afghanistan was completed Aug. 10.

The bridge links the Rawanii, Raubud, Dand, Karaizak and Kawajali districts to Kandahar. The districts are usually cut off by a river during the winter months.

"The bridge has immense value," said Jamil Elyassi, director of public roads for Kandahar. "The people face serious problems crossing here. They can't buy supplies or get medical help from Kandahar City when the river is flowing. Soldiers can't even provide security to the other side. Now they can get medical help and be secure."

The bridge is more than just a crossing point for the districts, said Elyassi. Although the riverbed beneath the bridge is currently dry, the Tarnac River can be an intimidating barrier when the winter snows begin to melt.

The bridge itself was completed mid-December 2004, but the project included a kilometer-long stretch of road improvement on both sides of the new structure.

The bridge also brought a hidden benefit, said Elyassi. "These were not villages before the bridge. They were just a group of houses. Now there are three villages here."

The bridge, which cost almost \$280,000, will have an even larger economical impact, Elyassi said.

"It will increase the commercial relationship between these areas and Kandahar. It has already made things better and the bridge will continue to have a positive effect long after today," said Elyassi.

The 700-meter-long landmark has taken on a symbolic meaning as well.

"Not only will this join the people on both sides of the bridge, but it will also carry you to your future and destiny," said Army Lt. Col. Robert Ball, Kandahar's former provincial reconstruction team commander, whose team was replaced by Canadian forces Aug 16.

Ball posed a question to the large audience at the bridge opening, including Kandahar Gov. Assadullah and Task Force Gun Devil Commander Army

Lt. Col. Bertrand Ges.

"Where will this bridge take you?" he asked. "Anywhere you want to go. Hopefully it takes all of you to the polls to vote."

"I am very thankful to the Coalition and Kandahar PRT," said Elyassi. "This is a significant symbol."

"For the past 25 years, we have had war here," said Elyassi. "For the first time I can remember we are concentrating on building. It doesn't matter if it's bridges or houses or schools or hospitals, it shows that we are moving forward, beyond the war."



Photo by Army Pfc. Jon Arguello

Afghan transportation takes another giant step forward as the Tarnac River bridge opens, linking the Rawanii, Raubud, Dand, Karaizak and Kawajali districts to Kandahar.

92nd MP Company bolsters police training capabilities

By Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs Office

ZABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – A platoon from the 92nd Military Police Company, Baumholder, Germany, recently joined Task Force Rock as it continued its combat and civil assistance missions here.

Platoons from the 92nd MP Co. conduct operations all over Afghanistan. Led by the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, the 92nd already has experience operating in Kandahar Province and the Lashkahr Gah district.

Army 2nd Lt. Daniel Caffarel leads the platoon along with Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary Keziah, his platoon sergeant. The Soldiers are primarily military police officers, or, as Caffarel calls them, "combat MPs."

In garrison, these Soldiers have two roles: the typical police work that comes with patrolling a military post; and training to prepare for combat operations. MP units on combat deployments assume many traditional infantry roles such as conducting patrols, executing raids, and reacting to ambushes.

The main focus of the platoon's mission with TF Rock will

be to provide effective training to more than 1,000 Afghan National Policemen who patrol the 11 districts of the Zabul Province. Caffarel said the MPs will meet that goal by providing an intensive two-week course to every policeman in the province prior to the parliamentary elections Sept. 18.

The training will focus on weapons marksmanship, conducting searches, and executing site security. For the months after the elections, Caffarel said his platoon has designed a four-week course for the ANP that focuses on typical police work, such as identifying and collecting evidence, conducting interviews, gathering intelligence, and establishing and operating a traffic control point.

"The ultimate goal of our deployment here is to transition the police, who already have an extensive amount of war fighting experience and training, from infantrymen into policemen," Caffarel said. "We want to teach them the whole 'to serve and to protect' mentality and how to work with the communities to develop the relationships that define good police organizations."

The 92nd MPs will be attached to TF Rock until their mutual redeployment in April 2006.

Afghan, U.S. forces kill 16 during offensive operations

By Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – An estimated 16 enemy combatants were killed by Afghan and U.S. forces Aug. 23 and 24 in a series of offensive actions across southern Afghanistan as part of Operation Vigilant Sentinel.

August 23, six armed enemies were killed when Afghan and U.S. forces observed them emplacing improvised explosive devices in the Shinkay District of the Zabul province.

Afghan National Army soldiers and U.S. forces were conducting offensive operations in the area when they spotted these individuals digging alongside the road.

A search of the area uncovered two IED devices, an IED triggering device, six AK-47s, two antitank mines, two light machine guns and a radio.

Meanwhile, approximately 25 miles southeast of Tarin Kowt, another Afghan and U.S. patrol located an unknown number of enemy combatants armed with rocket-propelled grenades and light machine guns. The Afghan and U.S. patrol opened fire on the enemy, pinning

the enemy down in nearby hills.

American B-52 bomber, A-10 attack aircraft and attack helicopters were called to the scene as the Afghan and U.S. patrol maneuvered to engage the enemy. Afghan and Coalition forces captured five assault rifles, one light machine gun, rocket propelled grenades and an electronic scanner. Battle damage assessments are ongoing.

August 24, a U.S. and Afghan patrol reported contact with enemy forces pinned down 25 miles northeast of Tarin Kowt. Coalition aircraft as well as direct fire resulted in five enemy killed and two detained.

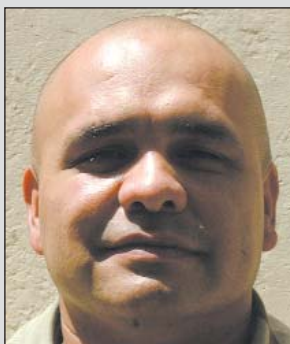
Operation Vigilant Sentinel is a series of coordinated Afghan and U.S. offensive and support operations designed to secure the election process and improve the prosperity of the Afghan people.

In another engagement Wednesday, as offensive operations continued in the Kandahar area, another joint Afghan and U.S. patrol located an enemy observation post. With the combination of U.S. A-10 aircraft, attack helicopters and direct fire weapons five additional enemy were killed.

There were no U.S. casualties or damage as a result of these engagements.

Enduring Voices

If there was one attribute you could pass along to your peers, what would it be?



**Army Staff Sgt.
Lawrence Lujan**
CJTF-76 HSC

"I'd pass on honesty because that is the place improvements start."



**Army Pfc.
Shaniqua Mills**
Task Force 165
Military Intelligence
Battalion

"I'd pass on the skill of cooperation, we need to learn how to work together to accomplish the mission."



**Navy Petty Officer 3rd
Class Felicia Weigel**
CJTF-76 Cryptological
Support Group

"I think tolerance should be used more when in the Armed Forces since we deal with such a variety of people."



**Army 2nd Lt. Kenton
Komives**
2nd Battalion 504th
Parachute Infantry
Regiment

"Creativity is essential because there is no set way to accomplish a mission and thinking outside the box is the only way to get it done."

Freedom Watch
September 5, 2005

So long as the people do not care to exercise their freedom, those who wish to tyrannize will do so; for tyrants are active and ardent, and will devote themselves in the name of any number of gods, religious and otherwise, to put shackles upon sleeping men.
Voltaire